



## ON PATROL



### WHAT IS YOUR CAR SAYING TO THIEVES?

#### DON'T BE A TARGET FOR THEFT

During the holiday season, thieves are shopping for gifts in your vehicle. It only takes a thief a few seconds to break into your car and steal valuables left in plain sight. Taking just a few more seconds of your time to secure your valuables could mean the difference between a happy holiday and a holiday spent at the police station reporting stolen goods.

- The Bloomington Police Department (BPD) recommends the following tips for keeping your vehicle and valuables safe.
- **Don't leave valuables in your car.** If you must, place them out of sight prior to reaching your destination. Lock items in a glove box if your vehicle doesn't have a trunk. One reason sport utility vehicles and trucks are common targets is because they don't have a trunk to hide valuables.
  - **Don't leave any clues that your vehicle contains a valuable item.** Clues include docking stations, connector cables and window-mounted holders. A visible charging cable advertises the presence of a GPS unit.
  - **Park in a busy, well-lit area.** Pedestrian traffic and windows overlooking a parking lot provide witnesses. Thieves will tend to avoid these areas.
  - **Always lock your doors every time you leave.** Remember, all it takes is a second for a thief to steal your stuff.
- If, despite your best efforts, your vehicle is burglarized, or if you happen to see any suspicious activity such as someone loitering in a parking lot and looking into vehicles, call 911 immediately.
- For more information, contact the BPD at 952-563-4900.

#### STAYING ALERT BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS AND GET HOME SAFE



When returning to your vehicle, always carry your keys in your hand and be ready to unlock the door and enter as quickly as possible. As you approach your vehicle, scan the area, glance underneath and inside the vehicle, and lock the door when you get in.



## SAFETY MATTERS

### A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS COOKING SAFETY MADE EASY

Did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries? The leading cause of kitchen fires is leaving cooking food unattended. Most kitchen fires start on the stove top.

For more information, contact Fire Marshal Gene Dugal at 952-563-8957.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: FIRE SAFETY.

Follow these “dos and don’ts” to avoid kitchen combustion this holiday season.

#### Do

- **Do** keep children away from cooking areas by establishing a three-foot “kid-free zone” around the stove.
- **Do** have a potholder, oven mitt and pot lid handy.
- **Do** make sure your cooking areas are clean and clear of combustibles.

#### DON'T

- **Don't** leave cooking food on the stove top unattended.
- **Don't** use a wet oven mitt, because it presents a steam scald danger.
- **Don't** pour water on a grease fire or discharge a fire extinguisher onto a pan fire.



### NAVIGATING THREE-LANE STREETS KNOWING WHEN AND HOW TO TURN

In a three-lane street configuration such as the newly reconfigured 86th Street, the center lane is used **only for turning, not for passing**. It is illegal for a driver to cross the solid yellow line in the middle to pass a vehicle. However, if a vehicle such as a transit bus or garbage truck is pulled over on the shoulder and there is adequate space in the turn lane to safely proceed, you may do so. This does not apply to school buses, which drivers must always stop for when the stop sign arm is extended.

The center lane is always shared, for the purpose of making left turns, by traffic traveling in both directions.

To turn left from the center lane, signal, look over your shoulder, and move completely inside the center left turn lane. Make sure the lane is clear in both directions and then turn only when it is safe. Look for vehicles coming toward you in the same lane to start their left turns.

For more information, call Civil Engineer Amy Marohn at 952-563-4532.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: 86TH STREET.

## HELPING KIDS GROW STRONG

### FORMING HEALTHY HABITS PROGRAM ENCOURAGES KIDS TO TRY SOMETHING NEW

Big battles are staged at the dinner table between parents and children over broccoli and string beans, but there's good news. Bloomington Public Health, through the Statewide Health Improvement Program, offers child care centers and preschools ways to improve children's eating habits. Through the Healthy Eating and Learning through Play (HELP) program, two new workshops are being offered to Bloomington preschools and day care centers.

“The Learn about Nutrition through Activities (LANA) program provides creative strategies that get children excited about trying new fruits and vegetables,” Public Health Nutritionist Joan Bulfer said.

According to Bulfer, the feedback received from preschool teachers has been extremely positive.

I Am Moving, I Am Learning, another workshop being offered through HELP, is designed to help child care centers and preschool programs integrate physical activity with learning.

Since the program began, HELP workshops have served 18 Bloomington child care and preschool sites. For more information about HELP, contact Public Health at 952-563-8900.



WEBSITE KEYWORDS: HELP PROGRAM.

### EARLY INTERVENTION ANSWERING PARENTS' CONCERNS



Do you have concerns about your child's development? The Help Me Grow program is here to help. Formerly known as SHIELD, Help Me Grow South Hennepin is a no-cost, early-intervention service for children ages birth to five years. The program helps families coordinate resources for their child's healthy development.

Upon request, Public Health nurses will make home visits to assess a child's developmental skills. Children who are falling behind are referred to their local school district for an assessment and possible Early Childhood Intervention Services.

“These services help children catch up to their peers,” Reilly said. “Many of these kids graduate from the Early Childhood Intervention program before kindergarten.”

For more information, call Help Me Grow South Hennepin at 952-563-8904 or e-mail [helpmegrow@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:helpmegrow@ci.bloomington.mn.us).